

so unlike any of the present day with which I am acquainted, that I could only liken them to calcareous forms of the arenaceous Foraminifer called *Astrorhiza*. But on receiving more of these spicules, together with their associates (chiefly the remains of encrinitic stems), I thought that they might be the pedicellariæ of some unknown fossil Echinoderm. Finally I yielded to an acknowledged authority, who stated that there was nothing among the Echinodermata, living or fossil, to be compared to them; and then I came to the conclusion that we should never know any thing more satisfactory about them until they had been found in connexion with the organism to which they originally belonged, when the receipt of Mr. J. Thomson's specimens decided the matter in the way above stated. I must observe that Dr. Millar throughout kept to the view that they were the remains of a hyalonematous sponge, as has now been proved.

Pending my being able to delineate and describe Mr. Thomson's interesting specimens, among which there are the remains too of another sponge, apparently of a different kind, I think it right to make this communication.

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XXVI.—*Description of a new Species of Batrachostomus from Central Borneo.* By Dr. F. BRÜGGEMANN.

*Batrachostomus adspersus.*

Bill strongly vaulted; hair feathers of the lores well developed, curved and remarkably rigid; forehead with a conspicuous tuft of recurved hair feathers almost as in *B. crinifrons*: wings comparatively long and pointed; fourth quill longest; fifth, sixth, third, and seventh successively a trifle shorter; second much shorter, slightly surpassed by the eighth; first nearly one inch shorter than the second: tail elongate, its feathers narrow, shortly pointed, rather obtuse at the top, the outermost pair reaching only to one third of the whole length; the next pair twice as long as the first; the following pairs forming the rounded apex: toes long, slender; nails weak, feebly curved.

Above pale greyish brown, inclining to rufous on the smaller wing-coverts and rump, everywhere most densely covered with delicate, irregular, transverse markings of a brownish black colour. Each of the feathers of the upper head, neck, and back with a small buffy-white terminal spot, and before it

with a blackish triangular one. Scapularies white, slightly washed with fulvous, and marked with scarce, blackish, irregular lines formed by narrow bars and edgings of the feathers. Quills dark greyish brown, their outer webs pale buff, marked with distant rufous bars, the latter being bordered with brown. Tertiaries and tail-feathers pale sand-colour, transversely mottled with dark brown. Tail with eight transverse sub-triangular bars of a more rufous ground-colour, which are in markings and extension equal to the paler interspaces and separated from these by a narrow dark brown border. Hair feathers of the head blackish. Loes and eyebrows almost uniform pale buff. Throat with a large buffy-white spot showing some brown markings. Fore neck coloured like the back; rest of under surface pale buff, sparingly variegated with brown. Under wing-coverts brown, mottled with buff; axillaries buffy white; under surface of quills and tail-feathers similar in its markings to the upper surface, but much paler and more greyish. Bill, feet, and nails light horn-colour.

Total length about 250 millims.; length of wing 132 millims., of tail 143, of bill 20; width of bill at the gape 35; length of tarsus 15, of middle toe 15.

*Hab.* Moeara Teweh, interior of S.E. Borneo. The specimen above described was collected by Dr. George Fischer, who presented it to the Darmstadt museum. In a former paper on Bornean ornithology (Abh. Ver. Brem. v. p. 456) I have referred it doubtfully to *B. "stellatus,"* Salvad. (*B. stictopterus*, Cab. & Heine). The latter species having since been found in the same locality by Dr. Fischer and submitted to me for examination, I at once discovered that identification to be quite erroneous; for although the bird is almost of the same size as *B. stictopterus* and *B. javanensis* (Horsf.), it is at first glance distinguished from them by its greyish, mottled, really *caprimulgine* plumage, and also by structural details. The true *B. stellatus* (Gould) is, according to the original description, quite different from either of these species.

Besides *B. adpersus* and *B. stictopterus*, Dr. Fischer has also obtained the large *B. auritus* (Vig.) at Moeara Teweh. To the latter species the *Podargus Vincendoni* (Jacq. & Puch.), established on a specimen from Banjermassing, is perhaps referable, although the description does not perfectly agree with Vigors's bird.